

Minutes for Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families
Thursday, 1 June 2017

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Terry, Janice Agazio, Mike Blum, Jonathan K. Branch, Alison Buckley, Robert Lowell, Wanda Riddle, Greg Jolissaint, Howard Mooney GUESTS: Willis E. Gay (Assistant Director for the Office of Veterans Training for Maryland), Vikki Garcia (Office of Congressman Sarbanes), Larry Killen (Howard County American Legion Regional Commander), Bill Boulay (Catholic War Veterans)

Meeting called to order at 1902. Introduced Bill Boulay who represents Post Commander for Charles Carroll Post 1961 Catholic War Veterans. He made a short presentation

Old Business: Minutes for May were read and approved. Motioned by Greg, seconded by Bob. Future commission meeting dates were discussed. Traditionally we take July and August off, but Howard did remind us that we still have a lot of "balls in the air", so continue to work on outstanding projects. Next meetings are scheduled for 7 September and 7 October.

Howard discussed the dates for the next Veterans Resource Fair. Suggested that we keep it in the first week of April. Lisa said that it shouldn't be too late to book the Ellicott City 50+ Center again. Alison discussed the possibility of using HCC. She will do research regarding the possibility. Howard asked if Turf Valley may be interested in holding the resource fair "pro-bono." Lisa will do research.

Bob is working on the plaque for the JROTC unit to award their participation in the last forum. He will coordinate with Jose from the awards store at Fort Meade. It was also discussed when to present the plaque to the unit. At the Veterans Day Parade as opposed to at their school in front of peers.

Wanda gave an update on the Veterans Monument project. The agenda for the dedication program was presented. The set up for the program was discussed, and Wanda stated that the lineup of speakers had been confirmed. Bob has volunteered as "head usher." It was decided that commission members should be at the dedication site at around 1015. The ceremony is scheduled for 3 June 2017. Various aspects of the presentation were discussed.

Bob presented an update regarding the Veterans Treatment Court initiative. Talked with a representative from the State's Attorney Office. Lisa is also attending a conference that will talk about veterans' needs. (ie: other than honorable discharges, veteran's courts, etc)

Dental screening fair is in Laurel on 9 September. Howard is encouraging the commission to stop by.

Participation at the Howard County Fair on 5 August at 9:00am is highly encouraged. Howard and Lisa would like to know if folks can participate.

<http://www.howardcountyveterans.org/> is the monument fundraising web site.

The homework assignment on the education packet for Howard County schools was discussed. Please send contributions to Lisa.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: Alison confirmed that HCC is on Spring Break during the time that the Resource Fair will be held, making it a possibility for the Resource Fair.

New Business: Commission activities during summer break. Larry mentioned the Boys State program. Also, the Commission and American Legion will participate in the 4 July parade in Clarksville. Mike Blum and Lisa will be attending a conference in Anne Arundel County that will discuss building community collaborations with veterans.

Howard did ask for agenda items for September meeting. Also, we will start raising monies for the monument after the dedication ceremony. Lisa discussed the status of the \$25K for the monument.

Howard wants to use our 1K as our operating budget.

Larry discussed the Ellicott City Veterans Day Parade in November.

Howard met with Congressman Sarbanes for about an hour.

The 100th Anniversary Gala for Fort Meade is being held on 10 June 2017. Discussed by Lisa.

Chris Williams update was given by Wanda, he is now stationed at Bagram Air Force Base.

Wanda also mentioned the 22 Push-Up challenge sponsored by the NAACP.

Willis Gay introduced himself to the commission as the assistant director of veterans training for the state of Maryland.

The meeting was adjourned by Howard at 2010